

REMARKS

In the above identified Office Action, all of the pending Claims were again rejected in view of the cited Kozuka patent. However, by virtue of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment, Applicants believe that the Claims are now allowable.

Specifically, independent Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to require that an image pickup device of the present invention is arranged so that a transfer switch (e.g., 2), included in a pixel, transfers photoelectric conversion charges generated by a photoelectric conversion unit (e.g., 1) to a charge accumulation unit (e.g., FD).

These features of the amended claims are not disclosed in the cited Kozuka patent. First, this is to acknowledge the reference in the Office Action to element 4 shown in Fig. 1 of the Kozuka patent and the statement that element 4 discloses the transfer switch of each of Applicants' Claims 1 and 8 now on file. However, the element 4 is a switch which transfers a signal voltage, converted by an amplification element 3 included in a pixel, to a holding capacitor 5. That is, the element 4 is not a switch which transfers signal charges generated by a photoelectric conversion unit, and the reference of Kozuka therefore fails to teach the driving means or driving step functioning together with the transfer switch as required in the amended independent Claims 1 and 8.

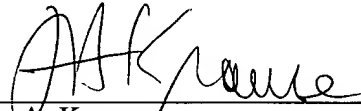
New independent Claim 14 requires that a driving method of the present invention applies a plurality of pulses to a transfer switch before a signal from a pixel is read out to a signal line (e.g., Fig. 3); and, new independent Claim 15 requires that a driving method applies a plurality of pulses to the transfer switch before or after a noise signal is read out from a photoelectric conversion unit (e.g. Figs. 3 and 6). These features of the present invention are also not disclosed by the cited Kozuka patent. Particularly the two transfer pulses ($\Phi T1$) referred in the Office Action are used for transfer of a

photoelectric conversion signal and transfer of a reset noise, respectively, and therefore they are distinctly different from the plurality of pulses defined in each of new Claims 14 and 15.

For these various reasons, it is believed that all of Claims 1-15 are allowable, and a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J.A. Krause", written over a horizontal line.

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